

# The State Chronicle

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JOSEPHUS DANIELS, - Editor.

D. H. BROWDER, - Bus. Manager.

HAL. W. AYER - Asso. Editor.

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 1890.

Equal and Exact Justice to all Men,  
of Whatever State or Persuasion, Re-  
ligious or Political.—Thomas Jefferson.

## GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF THE TELEGRAPH.

"Whereas, a measure is pending in the Congress making the government a party to the general telegraphic scheme; and, whereas, this is a dangerous departure from the principles of a democratic-republican government as defined by Jefferson, which are best calculated to protect life and property, and secure the liberties of the people and promote the welfare of citizens; and, whereas, the tendency to centralization in the administration of the government and the increase of office-holders ought to be checked; and, whereas, to make the handling of the telegraphic business of the newspapers of the United States dependent on the good will of the employees subject to party control, would be an infringement of the liberty of the press and a subversion of the best interests of the people, therefore be it resolved that we the members of the Southern Press Association earnestly request our Representatives and Senators in Congress to use their best endeavors to secure the defeat of this iniquitous measure.

Resolved, That this action be communicated to the Senators and Representatives by the president and secretary."

The above resolution was adopted at a meeting of several editors of daily papers at Charleston, a few days ago, at what was improperly called the Southern Press Association. The few editors present had a perfect right to meet and pass such a resolution if they desired to do so, but they have no right to call their gathering the Southern Press Association. Such a name is a misnomer. It is a meeting in which only the editors who take the associated press telegrams are eligible to membership. In North Carolina only three editors are eligible to membership, and in Virginia only two or three. We do not believe that either State was represented at the meeting. The association is a close corporation, and excludes most of the best editors in the South. Certainly the over one hundred editors in North Carolina ought to have a voice in any matter that is of such deep interest to them. The "associated press dispatch editors" have no right to call themselves the "Southern Press Association," and before Congress considers their petition, we hope inquiry will be made into the exclusiveness of the organization that misleads itself the Southern Press Association.

It is natural that these editors, who have long enjoyed a monopoly in the service of press telegrams and have thereby kept out opposition, should look with apprehension upon the government ownership of the telegraph. They declare that it would tend to "centralization" when for many years the fortunate editors, who first obtained the franchise, have "centralized" all opportunity to make a daily paper in their own hands. Until the organization of the United Press, a competitor of the Associated Press, there was no chance for more than one paper to get the telegrams in a city. This made a close monopoly. Even after the organization of the United Press, it has been difficult to get the press dispatches at reasonable rates because of the high price of the telegraph toll. When Mr. BONITZ went to Wilmington to establish the Messenger he was forced to pay a bonus before he could receive the dispatches. When Mr. WALTER H. PAGE was editor of the STATE CHRONICLE he could not make the paper pay because the press dispatches could not be had at ANY PRICE. The other Raleigh morning paper enjoyed a monopoly, and no privilege would be granted to another paper. The private ownership of the telegraph is a boon to those papers that are in the monopoly as it enables them in some places to keep out opposition, but it is absurd for them to declare against government control because it would be "an infringement of the liberty of the press and a subversion of the best interests of the people." Government ownership or control would give to the press "a cheaper, more widely extended and more expeditious" service, and it would give this service to any editor who could pay for it, and not let it be the sole possession of a close corporation. The people would enjoy the wonderful advantages that free and unrestricted transmission of news, to any and all parties, at a low rate, would ensure. The protest of these Southern editors who ENJOY THE MONOPOLY IN MANY CASES, and in all cases enjoy advantages over competitors as to cost, is a selfish one. They are unwilling to give up their monopoly or their advantages. Very well, they have a right to say so. But we protest against

their use of the name of JEFFERSON as a defender of their selfish purposes. If ever a man lived who was the friend of a free press and equal privileges to all and special favors to none, that man was THOMAS JEFFERSON. His whole life and teaching was a protest against laws that gave advantages to the strong over the weak, or that muzzled the press or gave one editor the advantage over another. He regarded a free press as the bulwark of our government and emphasized in a way that will never be forgotten his belief in a press that looked to no corporation or party for protection.

The people are greatly interested in, not only cheaper telegraphic rates upon all messages, but also in a reduction of the prices charged for news. The papers in America, and this is especially true of those not favored by the monopoly, pay an exorbitant tax for their telegraphic news, and this prevents their giving their readers as full telegraphic service as ought to be furnished. Of course the rich and powerful papers can afford to furnish the best service regardless of cost, but the people are interested in securing a service that will enable every daily paper, no matter where published, to obtain cheaply and promptly the news of the world.

The papers of England enjoy a great advantage over us in respect to the cost of news service. When the English government purchased the telegraph it was predicted that one of the great difficulties would be the gathering and transmitting the news. Mr. W. H. PREECE, F. R. S., Vice-President of the society, says:

"In no country is there such a complete system for telegraphy for news purposes as there is in the United Kingdom. Whenever any great political event arises, such as the delivery of a great speech, all the important towns throughout the Kingdom receive simultaneously a VERBATIM report of the speech. There is not a town in the country where a daily paper is printed, which is not placed, after 6 p. m., in direct communication with London, and where there is not deposited on every subscriber's breakfast table a nearly VERBATIM report of the previous night's debate in Parliament."

We have this service in America, but only the leading papers in the principal cities can enjoy its full and complete facilities. Their large patronage enables them to pay the tolls demanded. The dailies in the smaller cities and towns cannot afford to pay the high prices, and cannot, therefore, supply their readers with the full news reports. The press rates in Great Britain where the government owns the telegraph, are very low. The average price is less than 5 cents per 100 words. The average price in America, under private ownership, is not known. Favoritism and other causes have much to do with the price paid by the different papers. In North Carolina the average rate for the regular service is, probably, about 33½ cents per 100 words, and 50 cents per 100 words on special telegrams. The cost is six or seven times as much as in Great Britain. The people would be the gainers if the press rates were low in that they could be more quickly and better supplied with the news of the world. They would also receive benefit because no special favors would be shown to any papers. Every editor who wanted it could get the news, and get it at the same price paid by others. Then the paper that was the best would be most largely patronized, and we would witness, upon equal terms, "the survival of the fittest." That is Jeffersonian doctrine and that is Democracy.

## A CHAIR OF HISTORY.

A meeting of the committee appointed by the University Alumni at last commencement to report a plan for establishing a Chair of History at that institution has been called by COL. W. L. SAUNDERS, chairman, to meet at Chapel Hill on Wednesday, June 4th, of next commencement. The committee are:

W. L. SAUNDERS, Chairman, Raleigh.  
J. TURNER MOREHEAD, Leaksville.  
RUFUS BARRINGER, Charlotte.  
D. G. WORTH, Wilmington.  
W. H. S. BURGWIN, Henderson.  
CHAS. F. DEEMS, New York.  
HUGH L. COLE, Brooklyn.  
AUGUSTUS VAN WYCK, Brooklyn.  
WALTER CLARK, Raleigh.  
LOCKE CRAIG, Asheville.  
E. A. ALDERMAN, Goldsboro.  
A. H. ELLER, Winston.  
W. J. PEELE, Raleigh.

This is a very important movement and ought to secure the hearty and practical co-operation, not only of all the alumni of the University but of all North Carolinians who are interested in securing a deeper interest in the study of the history of the State and a fuller examination of the records of the past than has ever yet been made.

An endowed chair of history at the University would be a step in the line of educational progress, the best results of which would be felt in all the future. The state has been misunderstood and misrepresented in not a few important particulars because our fathers did not make careful research and publish in attractive form an account of our achievements. We are glad to see that a new spirit is infusing our people, and that they are coming to appreciate the value of accurate historical knowledge of the State and the great men who have honored and been honored by it in the past. A people who do not hold in grateful remembrance the noble deeds of their ancestors, and who do not teach the youth to venerate the

"names that were not born to die" will never rise to greatness or renown. Take away the pride every patriotic North Carolinian feels in the brave men whose names are forever linked with important measures in the history of our State and you rob us of one of the chief incentives to noble endeavor. That some of the descendants of brave men have degenerated does not detract from their brilliant achievements, or make them less worthy of the admiration of the people of their State.

The chair of History will be established, we believe. The character of the men who have accepted places on the committee, leads us to expect that the plan they will mature and present at the next commencement will be one that will secure the election of a Professor of History. We believe that such a chair would be not only a great stimulus to the careful study of history upon the part of students, but that it would create a widespread interest in State History that would secure the foundation of an active North Carolina Historical Society, with branches in each county.

## THE MONEY QUESTION.

The commerce of the country is now in the power of the Bank of England, as it was before in the Legislature. For legislative enactment we have substituted the decision of the Bank Parlor; for a responsible government composed of king, queen, lords and Commons, we have substituted an irresponsible body composed of twenty-four directors, and a governor and a deputy governor. To these we have confided the commerce of this mighty empire. Instead of a mercantile system supported by merchants and manufacturers, and agricultural interests, we have now the monetary system endangering the welfare of merchants, manufacturers and agricultural interests—for the benefit of the fund-holding classes.—MR. ECALY.

## HOMESPUN YARNS.

The readers of the CHRONICLE are familiar with the uproar that was created in Charlotte when SAM JONES made his blunder by saying that the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was a myth. A gentleman tells the CHRONICLE that, a day or two afterwards, SAM, in criticizing the creeds of the different denominations, declared that "every man in hell had had a chance to get to heaven, the doctrine of election notwithstanding," and that he "wouldn't have an almanac that taught that every man had not had a fair chance."

This statement excited no comment. A good-natured Scotch-Irish Presbyterian, commenting on the two statements, said: "Sam Jones may tear the Catechism and Confession of Faith all to pieces, but he'd better not touch that sacred Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence."

Senator RANSOM, says the Wilmington Messenger, introduced a petition in the United States Senate from citizens of this town asking for the passage of a law stopping mails, trains, etc., on Sunday. We understand that all mails and trains in England are suspended from Saturday night to Monday morning, and that the interests of the people do not suffer from this arrangement. But are the running of trains any worse than riding about in buggies and other vehicles on the Lord's Day? If we are not mistaken a great many church people go on pleasure rides on that day.

IN MAKING an estimate of SAM JONES and considering his hard sayings, put these two items down to his credit: While in Charlotte he gave \$1,000 to a college in Georgia and \$100 to the Charlotte Y. M. C. A. building. If it is fair to charge him with all his wrongs, it is right to credit his account with his good deeds.

A FEW NIGHTS ago, while SAM JONES was preaching in Charlotte, he was asked if a druggist who sells liquor is not as bad as a bar keeper? JONES replied that a bar keeper is a gentleman, a scholar, and a Christian beside a man who would hide the stuff behind pills and powders.

## PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

Mr. Jas. W. Forbis has been renominated for Mayor of Greensboro. His administration has been a progressive one and under it Greensboro has made wonderful improvement.

Amelie Rives, who was recently prostrated in Paris by a serious illness, is said to be completely restored, and at work once more. She is one of the most diligent pupils in Laras's studio.

Mr. Jonathan Havens has been invited to deliver the memorial address in Washington, N. C., on the 10th of May. Mr. Havens will give the people something worth hearing. The citizens of Washington may anticipate a treat.—New Berne Journal.

General Alger at the close of the war landed in Detroit without a cent, and had to borrow money to pay his board bill. At present he owns two hundred square miles in Michigan, and is reputed to be worth \$20,000,000.

The Literary Societies at Wake Forest give each a medal, to the member making the greatest improvement in oratory during the session. For the present session the medal in the Euzelian Society has been awarded to Mr. S. C. Welch, son of Dr. Welch, of Haywood county; and that in the Philomathean to Mr. O. H. Dockery, Jr., son of Hon. O. H. Dockery.

## LOOKING FORWARD.

(Special Cor. of STATE CHRONICLE.)

DURHAM, N. C., May 1, 1890.—I read, with much pleasure, in the CHRONICLE of the 25th, an article with this somewhat noticeable heading: "The Governor and Supreme Court Justice Preached Better Sermons on Sunday than Most of the Preachers." I don't mean that it gave me pleasure to hear that these eminent gentlemen PREACHED BETTER sermons than some of the preachers, but my pleasure grew out of the fact that THEY PREACHED AT ALL. We preachers are not fearful that our occupation will be gone by any means. We rather feel encouraged to try to do better when we have the moral support of men in high places. This was not always so, the pessimist will take notice! Some of us can remember the day when, if a Governor or Supreme court judge should have spoken in public on the side of religion, the very stone jugs would have cried out against them, and many people would have thought the country ruined.

Not that some eminent men in that day were not moral, for they were, and some of them religious; but that all evangelical talking and working was relegated to the clergy; and it was hardly supposable that laymen and especially prominent laymen, would presume to take any part in such work. Of course this was an error, and preachers ought to be glad that their teaching—if they did so teach—has had such good results. The day has passed when church membership can be regarded as an inactive and meaningless thing. The age is growing in general education, and swelling into bad and flower and fruit of moral and intellectual intelligence. The work of evangelism must not be given up wholly to the pulpit. The pew must be active. When Christ broke the bread He gave it to His disciples and they carried it to the multitude. So now and in the future the active militancy of the church must be emphasized.

I am glad to say that Judge Clark and Governor Fowle are not alone in their good work. There are many other laymen who are moving on this line, and while they do not call it preaching, the difference may be mainly in name, and sometimes in quality, with the scales not always preponderating on the side of the clergy.

I take off my hat and stand uncovered before the coming future. Let all wedge-shaped dogmas that separate Christian people be relegated to the stone age, and be buried by the coming wave of unity of spirit and practice amongst all who call themselves Christians.

E. A. YATES.

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A lot of White Flouncing at 15c. a yard.  
Our stock of Men's and Boys' Straw Hats has arrived.

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**NOTICE!**  
NORTH CAROLINA, Before Clerk Wake County, Superior Court.  
Notice is hereby given that I have this day issued letters declaring J. M. Broughton, W. N. Jones and J. N. Holding and their associates and successors, a corporation for the purposes set forth in the articles of incorporation filed and recorded in this office, with all the privileges conferred upon corporations and the laws amendatory thereof. The substance of said articles is that the said parties desire to become incorporated under the name and style of "The Raleigh Real Estate Company," and the business proposed to be done by said company is the buying, selling, leasing, holding and improving real estate and negotiating loans on real and personal property, the buying, selling, renting and leasing real estate on commissions, the taking, holding, purchasing and selling options on real estate, the collection of rents, notes, accounts and other evidences of indebtedness, the placing of insurance on property on commissions, and such other acts as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes enumerated. The place of business of said corporation is Raleigh, N. C., and the duration thirty years. The capital stock of said corporation is three thousand dollars, divided into thirty shares of one hundred dollars each, with privilege to increase the capital stock to two hundred thousand dollars. The stockholders of said corporation are not individually liable for the debts of the same.  
CHAS. D. UPCHURCH,  
Clerk Superior court Wake county.  
April 26, 1900.

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